



**THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
OF TEXAS**

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

**JOHN L. HILL
ATTORNEY GENERAL**

March 20, 1975

Mr. Charles Wages, Superintendent
Hurst-Eules-Bedford Independent
School District
Bedford, Texas 76021

Open Records Decision No. 72

Re: Does the Open Records
Act require a school to make
public the names and addresses
of students' parents and guardians.

Dear Mr. Wages:

You state that the Hurst-Eules-Bedford Independent School District has been asked to make available to a member of the public the names and addresses of the parents or guardians of students attending a particular elementary school in the district. You have asked if this is public information under article 6252-17a, V. T. C. S., the Open Records Act. Your letter further states that the requested information is contained in Central Accounting Cards which are filled out by each student's parents or guardians and kept on file by the school district.

Section 3(a) of the Open Records Act provides that, subject to listed exceptions:

All information collected, assembled, or
maintained by governmental bodies pursuant
to law or ordinance or in connection with the
transaction of official business is public informa-
tion . . .

We believe that the information requested is "information collected, assembled, or maintained" by the school "in connection with the transaction of official business" within the meaning of section 3(a).

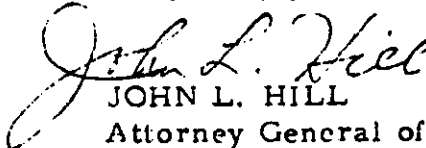
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A list of names and addresses of parents in this instance is not a student record within the meaning of section 3(a)(14). See Open Records Decision 16 (1974). Nor, absent some specific assertion of a privacy interest can we say that the requested information is covered by the right of privacy.

Thus it is our decision that the information requested is public information and should be made available to the requesting party. Of course, the school should comply with the notice requirements for release of directory type information established in the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974. 20 U.S.C.A. §1232g (a)(5)(b) (Supp. 1975) as amended by PL 93-568 (Dec. 31, 1974), U.S. Code Cong. and Admin. News 6834 (Pamphlet No. 13, 1974).

Finally, your letter asks for two opinions on questions of the general application of the Open Records Act to education institutions. Unlike the Open Records Act which gives us authority to issue decisions on the availability of specific information, article 4399, V. T. C. S., permits this office to issue opinions on general questions of law only to certain designated officials. Since school districts are not within our article 4399 jurisdiction, we must respectfully decline to elaborate on this portion of your opinion requests.

Very truly yours,


JOHN L. HILL
Attorney General of Texas

APPROVED:


DAVID M. KENDALL, First Assistant


C. ROBERT HEATH, Chairman
Opinion Committee

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